



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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### TOPEKA MAN WHO RUMMAGED THROUGH TRASH FOR DISCARDED DOCUMENTS SENTENCED TO 14 MONTHS

TOPEKA, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Dennis Michael Christiansen**, 40, Topeka, has been sentenced to 14 months in federal prison without parole on a charge of bank fraud. He was sentenced this week by District Court Judge Julie A. Robinson in Topeka.

Robinson also ordered Christiansen to pay more than \$15,000 in restitution to the businesses that were the victims of his scheme.

Christiansen pleaded guilty Oct. 4, 2004 to one count of bank fraud. In his plea, Christiansen admitted that from Aug. 2003 through Nov. 18, 2003 he executed a scheme to defraud Intrust Bank, Emporia State Bank & Trust, Commerce Bank & Trust, and U.S. Bank. Christiansen admitted he rummaged through trash disposed of by the Kansas Department of Revenue in Topeka, Kan., to gather information he used to create both fictitious Kansas driver's licenses and fictitious checks on a personal computer. He also admitted he negotiated fictitious checks at three businesses in Emporia, Kan., including Wal-Mart, Emporia State Bank and Trust Company and Sutherland's Lumber.

Christiansen will be credited with time served since his arrest in November. Upon completing his sentence, he will serve four years on supervised release.

Melgren commended the work of the U.S. Secret Service, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough, who prosecuted.